

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed September 25, 2003. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims 1 – 35 are respectfully requested.

I. Drawings Submitted With Application are Formal Drawings

The Office Action states that the drawings filed with the application are informal drawings and that formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed. Applicants reviewed each of Figures 1 – 12 for compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.81, 1.83, and 1.84. Applicants believe that the drawings filed with the application comply with all applicable rules and, therefore, should be accepted as formal drawings. Nonetheless, if upon further consideration the Examiner still believes that the drawings are informal, Applicants respectfully request that each non-compliant Figure be identified and a detailed explanation of the reasons for non-compliance be provided.

II. Claims 1 – 35 are Patentable Over U.S. Patent No. 6,317,116

The Office Action rejects claims 1 - 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,317,116 to Rosenberg *et al.* (“the ‘116 patent”). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be withdrawn because the ‘116 patent fails to disclose, teach, or suggest features/limitations/elements recited in independent claims 1, 6, 14, 19, 27, and 28.

In support of the rejection of independent claims 1, 6, 14, 19, 27 and 28, the Office Action quotes the entirety of the third paragraph of the Background of the Invention of the ‘116 patent. Col. 1, ll. 37 – 57. Applicants carefully evaluated the entire contents of the ‘116 patent, including this portion cited in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit

that the '116 patent does not disclose, teach, or suggest the feature of displaying (logic configured to display) a target area containing the first image object selected. Furthermore, the '116 patent does not disclose, teach, or suggest the feature of modifying (logic configured to modify) the displayed target area such that the target area contains the first and second image objects.

In fact, the '116 patent does not even disclose, teach, or suggest the feature of a target area that is displayed and which contains the image object selected via the graphical user interface (GUI). Rather, the '116 patent merely teaches the basic concept of a graphical user interface (GUI) environment. The purported novel features of the '116 patent relate to a user-manipulable physical object (*e.g.*, computer mouse 12) and a "a force feedback implementation of a graphical environment in which force feedback click surfaces are provided" to "allow a user to select buttons, icons, or other graphical objects (on a GUI) with movement of a mouse or other user manipulable object without requiring a separate manual command gesture, such as the pressing of a button on a mouse." Col. 2, ll. 38 – 44.

In simpler terms, the system employs mechanical interfaces (14) as an intermediary between the computer mouse 12 and the host computer 18 and the associated GUI. *See Fig. 1.* As the computer mouse 12 is moved by a user to control the movement of the cursor in the GUI, the mechanical interfaces 14 may provide a physical force to the computer mouse 12 in certain circumstances. The '116 patent states that the mechanical interfaces 14 may be used to eliminate the need to "click" an image object in order to select the image object, or to alleviate problems with positioning the cursor directly over the desired image object. Col. 2, ll. 4 – 35. For example, when a user physically moves the computer mouse 12 to "select" an image object in the GUI with the cursor, the host computer 18 may send signals to the mechanical interfaces 14 to provide a physical force to the computer mouse when the mouse reaches the "click surface." Col. 2, ll. 45 – 67. When the click surface is contacted by the

cursor, the mechanical interfaces 14 provide a force to the computer mouse 12 which opposes further movement of the computer mouse 12. If the user continues to move the computer mouse 12 against the opposing force to a "trigger position," the image object is "selected."

Having clearly described the contents of the '116 patent, Applicants respectfully submit that the '116 patent does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least the following features claimed in independent claims 1, 6, 14, 19, 27 and 28: (1) displaying (logic configured to display) a target area containing the first image object selected; and (2) modifying (logic configured to modify) the displayed target area such that the target area contains the first and second image objects. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 6, 14, 19, 27 and 28 are patentable over the '116 patent. Furthermore, dependent claims 2 – 5 (which depend from independent claim 1), dependent claims 7 – 13 (which depend from independent claim 6), dependent claims 15 – 18 (which depend from independent claim 14), dependent claims 20 – 26 (which depend from independent claim 19), and dependent claims 29 – 35 (which depend from independent claim 28) are also patentable over the '116 patent for at least the reason that they contain all of the limitations/features/elements of the corresponding independent claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn and claims 1 – 35 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that pending claims 1 – 35 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

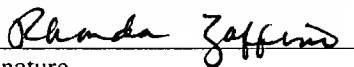


Adam E. Crall, Reg. No. 46,646

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
100 Galleria Parkway N.W., Suite 1750
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 12/5/2003


Signature